

AMERICAN-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS

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gether. They were trustworthy. They had character. They were inspired by high ideals. And they were "simpatico." By "simpatico" I mean not merely "sympathetic," but an American who understood the Filipinos and dealt kindly and squarely with them.

It is Theodore Roosevelt, former President of the United States, under whom the Philippines was administered, who is testifying:

No higher grade of public officials ever handled the affairs of any colony than the public officials who in succession governed the Philippines. With the possible exception of the Sudan and not even excepting Algiers, I know of no country ruled and administered by men of the white race where that rule and that administration have been exercised so emphatically with an eye single to the welfare of the natives themselves. The English and Dutch administrators of Malaysia have done admirable work but the profit to the Europeans in those States has always been one of the chief elements considered whereas in the Philippines our whole attention was concentrated upon the welfare of the Filipinos themselves, if anything to the neglect of our own interests. * * * The people of the Islands have never developed so rapidly, from every standpoint, as during the years of the American occupation.⁴

I once wrote that spontaneous, long continued, and ringing expressions of gratitude on the part of the Filipino people for the many benefits derived from American occupation of the Philippines need not be expected. I now believe that I was wrong. For true it is that Filipino leaders have given

public expression to the gratitude of the
Filipinos for their
tremendous social and material advances under
American
guidance. True, also, that thoughtful Philippine
citizens have
a realization of the very great advantages which
have accrued
to them and their country from association with
the United
States. And the old adage that actions speak
louder than words

⁴ *Theodore Roosevelt, An Autobiography (1913)5 P-
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